(b) Trikkur and Kodakara Panchayat Courts. The Member is referred to Question No. 205 (2) (Appendix).

Bridge in Amballur-Kallur Road—condition of.

204. Mr. T. A. Ramachandra Ayyar.—Will the Government be pleased to state:—

(a) whether they have come to know about the damaged condition of a bridge in the Amballur-Kallur Panchayat road;

(b) if so, (1) the date on which they got the information and

(2) the date on which action was taken to protect the bridge;

(c) what action was taken;

(d) is not toll collected from this road even now;

(e) what is the total length of the road; and the amount sanctioned for maintenance of this road in 1110 and for 1111;

(f) have the Government received complaints regarding the unsatisfactory condition of this road;

(g) if so, what action was taken?

Dr. E. S. R. Menon.—(a) Yes.

(b) (1) 19th Thulam 1111. (Letter from the Panchayat).

22nd Thulam 1111 (Report from the Overseer).

(2) 30th Thulam 1111.

(c) Orders were passed to put up temporary supports of Irul Nedunar posts to protect the bridge and also a caution post near the bridge.

(d) Yes.

(e) Two miles.

Rs. 206 for 1110.

Rs. 206 for 1111.

(f) Yes.

(g) The complaints are being enquired into.

Varantharapilli Panchayat.

205. Mr. T. S. Balarama Ayyar.—Will the Government be pleased to state:—

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(1) how many Panchayat Courts did the Chief Judge of the Chief Court inspect in the year 1110 M. E.;

(2) has he made any written remarks about any of the Panchayat Courts after inspection; and if so, will Government be pleased to place them on the table;

(3) when was the Varantharapilli Panchayat established;

(4) has the said Panchayat been given civil jurisdiction;

(5) what is the distance from the eastern boundary of Varantharapilli village to the Munsiff's Court of Irinjalakkuda?

Dr. E. S. R. Menon.—(1) Two.

(2) Yes. Copy of the remarks is appended. (*Appendix V*).

(3) In 1096.

(4) No.

(5) About 20 miles.

Government dredger for the Backwaters.

206. Mr. George Parakkal.—Will the Government be pleased to state:—

(a) does the Government possess a small dredger suitable for working in the backwaters;

(b) when was it purchased; is it in working condition;

(c) is there a staff appointed for the dredger; if so, what are their pay and designation, and what work are they doing now?

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon.—(a) Yes.

(b) About 20 years ago. It is in working condition.

(c) Yes.

Driver	Rs. 35—50
Assistant driver	„ 30
Fireman	„ 15—20
Watchman	„ 12

The fireman and the watchman are made to do work in the barges when the dredger is idle. The driver will be working in the Mechanical Office and workshop in addition to his duties as the officer responsible for the maintenance of the dredger. The assistant driver will be posted to work in the Mechanical Office when the dredger is idle.

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APPENDIX V.

Notes of visit made by the Chief Judge to the Trikkur and Kodakara Panchayat Courts.

"On my way back from Irinjalakkuda on 6th Vrischigam 1110, I paid a visit to the Trikkur Panchayat Court at 4 P. M. The court was functioning on that day and the judges were on the bench at the time of my visit. There were five judges present including the President. I spent nearly one hour with them watching how they performed their judicial work. I found that the judges took a lively interest in their work and were keenly alive to their duties. Three witnesses were examined in my presence. I gave the judges instructions for the speedy disposal of business on the bench. They were very attentive to all that I said and assured me that they would note the instructions given for their future guidance.

Instances of suits filed in 1108 still pending disposal were noticed. Cases are seen adjourned for want of time. In some instances there were as many as four adjournments for this reason. It was open to the judges to try long cases from day to day. They were not aware that the procedure was permitted and could be adopted. The whole procedure in the trial of cases was therefore explained to them. The judges thereupon assured me that they would work as instructed and dispose of the old cases as speedily as possible.

The ministerial work was also examined. All the prescribed registers are being maintained and the work was current. The Panchayat Inspector Mr. J. V. Akkarapatty who had come for inspection was present. An examination of the registers disclosed that both the Registrar of Panchayats and the Inspector were scrutinising the work of the Panchayat carefully.

I then gave instructions to the practitioners in charge of cases as to their responsibilities in the matter of trial of cases as they were not men specially trained for the purpose. They also very much appreciated the advice and instructions given.

There was a large gathering of people in the court premises and it appeared that the people appreciated the visit very much. The visit, I believe had the wholesome effect of creating public confidence in the Panchayat courts.

I have great pleasure to record that the working of this court is fairly good.

Kodakara Panchayat Court.

On my way back from Cranganur on 9th Vrischigam 1110, I visited the Kodakara Panchayat Court which had its sitting on that day. This court has seven judges and all of them were present. I spent about an hour with them with a view to see how they did their judicial work and they

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appeared to take a very keen interest in their work. The judges were at the time of my visit hearing arguments in a case. Two cases were argued in my presence. Matters which were not relevant for the decision of the cases were put before them and they were not at times properly able to eschew them. I gave them proper instructions. The judges then wished to have some instructions from me with regard to the trial and disposal of suits. I gave them a short discourse emphasising the points which required their special attention.

There was a large gathering of the people of the locality. The public appreciated the visit very much. The Registrar of Village Panchayats and the Panchayat Inspector were seen regularly conducting periodical inspections.

All the registers are maintained properly and posted up-to-date."

APPENDIX VI.

List showing the No. of bills passed for payment during each month in 1110, with amounts paid each month.

Month	No. of bills paid	Amount Rs.	A.	P.
Chingam	97	22,493	9	11
Kanni	230	45 916	2	9
Thulam	378	71,693	1	2
Vrischigam	293	60,655	2	6
Dhanu	326	62,486	3	7
Makaram	330	78,172	2	2
Kumbham	470	1,04,553	2	9
Meenam	518	1,69,474	12	6
Medam	267	53,412	6	11
Edavam	539	1,50,146	15	4
Mithunam	752	1,52,297	1	4
Karkadagam	2,180	4,95,500	10	10

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